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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST
NINETEEN HUNDRED & FIFTY

HECTOR MACKENZIE-WINTLE,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. London.
Medical Officer of Health
Wallingford Borough,
Wallingford Rural District,
Wantage Urban District,
Wantage Rural District.

WALLINGFORD & WANTAGE DISTRICTS

JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Clerk: Mr. G. V. Spooner, Council Offices, 60, Bath Street, Abingdon.
Telephone: Abingdon 361.

List of members for 1950

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH

Mr. M. L. Whiteley, "Crossways," Wantage Road, Wallingford. (Chairman)

Mr. J. W. Marcham, Wood Street, Wallingford.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Mrs. N. M. Bosley, "Icknield," 190, Broadway, Didcot.

Mr. H. T. Merritt, 3, Foxhall Road, Didcot.

Mr. S. Allen Warner, "Whitelea," 122, Broadway, Didcot.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

Mr. A. T. Evans, Manor Farm, Charlton, Wantage.

Miss Adkin, The Priory, Wantage.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

Mr. R. J. Besant, Challow Marsh Farm, East Challow.

The Rev. P. Bone, Aldworth, Reading.

Mr. S. W. Brown, Prince's Farm, Peasemore, Newbury.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. J. L. Sale, C.I.E., Priors Hold, Wantage.

Mr. H. Walters, "Highgrove," Station Road, Wallingford.

HEALTH STAFF IN THE AREA

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Hector Mackenzie-Wintle, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Wallingford. Telephone: Wallingford 2225.

Secretary: Mr. W. T. Watts,
Address as above.

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH

Sanitary Inspector: C. J. Flooks, M.Inst.H.E., M.S.I.A.,
Municipal Offices,
Wallingford. Telephone: 2184.

Mr. Flooks was in failing health for a considerable part of the year and actually gave up the work in September on medical advice. He has since retired and been succeeded by Mr. C. R. Lawless who did not take up his duties until June 1951. I am nevertheless indebted to Mr. Lawless for much help in the preparation of the report for 1950.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Chief Sanitary Inspector: C. J. Gayfer, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector: L. Sproston, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Northbourne Vicarage,
Didcot. Telephone: Didcot 3261.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

Sanitary Inspector: C. R. Driver, M.R.S.I.,
Town Hall, Wantage.
Telephone: Wantage 240.

Mr. Driver left towards the end of the year to take up another appointment. His successor, Mr. L. Oliver, took up his duties in January 1951, and I am indebted to him for considerable help in the preparation of the 1950 report.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

Chief Sanitary Inspector: E. H. Rosser, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: S. D. Crowle, M.R.S.I.,
(Commenced duties, November 1950)
Council Offices,
Belmont, Wantage.
Telephone: Wantage 211.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WALLINGFORD - WANTAGE DISTRICTS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit, herewith, my annual report for the year 1950 compiled in accordance with the directions of the Minister of Health.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgements to colleagues are often placed at the end of the report as if they were afterthoughts. Nothing, in my case, could be further from the truth, and I therefore reverse the usual order and start by conveying forthwith my gratitude to the following:

TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

My Committee is, and always has been, enthusiastic and understanding. They have backed me in every way I have asked and have invariably seemed disproportionately pleased by those moderate services which I have been able to render them. *Such an attitude is of enormous encouragement to an M.O.H. who feels, therefrom, that his raison d'être is appreciated and that he is not merely tolerated as a statutory nuisance.

TO DOCTOR PARFIT, M.O.H., OF ABINGDON AND FARINGDON

Doctor Parfit and I took up our parallel appointments within a few months of each other in 1949, and from the date of my arrival there has been between us a constant interchange of views and information on matters of common interest to the two areas. Doctor Parfit's cool and authoritative logic curbs Doctor Mackenzie-Wintle's impatience and ebullience, and we both venture to hope that the final amalgam is a fused core of tempered enthusiasm.

TO DOCTOR HUDDY, COUNTY AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER, AND TO DOCTOR BAIRD, HIS DEPUTY IN BOTH CAPACITIES

The County Council are responsible for the administration of those parts of the Preventive Medicine Service which, under the National Health Act were transferred from the Urban Districts, Rural Districts and smaller Boroughs, and while the M.Os.H. of such lesser authorities not unnaturally view such transference with a jaundiced eye as diminishing their spheres of influence and usefulness, it would be most ungracious in me not to thank Doctor Huddy and Doctor Baird for their constant help and constant interest in local conditions and needs.

TO THE STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY, OXFORD

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of a swift and efficient Laboratory Service in Preventive Medicine, particularly in dealing with Infectious Disease, Food Poisoning and Contaminated Water Supplies. The Oxford region has just such a service. Doctor Cook, Doctor Jebb and Doctor Payne are the members of its staff with whom I have most frequently been in touch and I am indebted for their cordial co-operation and for their expert advice both from the Laboratory and in field work.

* In this connection I have to record with very real gratitude that the Committee recently fixed my revised salary within the range of the Industrial Court's award in a way which honours as nearly as possible the terms of the Askwith Memorandum under which I was originally appointed. This was a purely moral obligation and one which many similar authorities have repudiated.

TO THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

The Sanitary Inspector's lot would scarcely seem an enviable one. Week in, week out, he has to listen to the distressing circumstances of housing applicants and to the grumbles of the aggrieved. His is the job of persuading, cajoling or threatening with statutory action recalcitrant and neglectful landlords, wilful tenants and other nuisance-mongers. He gets all the abuse and the brickbats (unless he takes the M.O.H. with him, when it is usually about fifty-fifty) and very seldom a bunch of flowers. He is associated in the lay mind chiefly with "Drain-sniffing" (when are we going to drop the title Sanitary Inspector in favour of something more Hygienic as well as more accurate such as Health Inspector?) whereas drains and sewerage in fact comprise a relatively small part of his work, as readers of Annual Reports will know.

I am happy to be able to announce, however, that all the Sanitary Inspectors in my area appear at the moment of going to press to be in good heart, and I am, as always, indebted to them for their continued energy, tact, loyalty and reliable judgement. The preparation of the sections in the following report labelled 'Sanitary Circumstances' is almost entirely in their hands and does give some idea of the scope of their activities.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report is primarily a statement of the health facts in an area. The M.O.H. should examine and comment on such facts and on any other matters which, in his view, bear on the general health of the community.

A difficulty which constantly besets him in the writing of such a report is that the health happenings of last year have already, like yesterday's news, become old history, have lost any spice of topicality for the public and are indeed crowded out of his own mind by what has occurred in the interim. It is not easy to see how this state of affairs can be altered when the vital statistics, upon which so much of the report's pith and argument are dependent, seldom become available before early summer the following year.

THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH—An expanding concept

The concept of health is today far more comprehensive than the old negative one of 'absence of disease.' It has widened to mean a 'positive state of well-being' and embraces such factors as Housing, Financial Security, Happiness in Work, Facilities for the Enjoyment of Leisure and a Confidence in the Future of Mankind.

This is no mere pipe-dream; indeed, with the resources, the knowledge and the skill already possessed by the human race, the attainment of such an ideal would be immediately and completely practicable—were it not for Power Politics and War-Fear. The countries, right, left and centre, scarcely pausing to consider peace overtures as anything but traps, press on madly with 'Defence' plans which include, at a cost which sandbags the imagination, such purely aggressive weapons as the Atomic Bomb and World-Range Bombers.

This country of ours, shattered and bankrupted by the last war, is now to spend £4,700,000,000—one thousand pounds for every man, woman and child in the land—on engines for the next, of which the very best that can be hoped is that they will rust without ever having been used. Yet if even half the astronomical sums earmarked for destructive purposes could be productively used instead, for raising the standard of living, for schools, for playing-fields, health research and health education, the problem of preventible disease might well disappear in a generation,

WHAT DISEASES ARE INCREASING IN THE AREA, AND WHY?

The number of housing applicants whom I see who complain of rheumatism or asthma is increasing. Is this increase a real one, or merely an attempt to get housing points? Nasal catarrh, too, is very prevalent. At first I thought this last to be due to the Thames Valley mists, but it has transpired that this soi-disant catarrh is as rife in Didcot and even in Wantage as it is in Wallingford.

If these complaints are real, have I just chanced to see more cases, personally? Or are all the local doctors having the same experience? Is the increase, if increase it is, a local one or is it general throughout the country? Is it a sudden sharp rise, or has it been a slow and steady one over a period of years? Is there any common factor to account for it?

The answer to all those questions in that we simply do not know

LACK OF STATISTICS ON DISEASE INCIDENCE

The above reflections lead on, naturally enough, to a consideration of the total amount of disease in the area and, by extension, throughout the country as a whole.

It is a remarkable fact that, until the coming into force of the National Health Insurance Act, our *knowledge of the total amount of sickness in the country was inferred from the Infectious Diseases Notifications and the Death Certificates. Hospitals, it is true, kept registers, but these were not always readily available to outside observers. It was impossible to say with any accuracy how much sickness there was in the country, far less how many cases of any particular disease there were; nor was it known whether the total sickness nor any particular diseases were increasing or decreasing from year to year.

A BEGINNING—AND A SUGGESTION

Under the National Health Insurance Act certain figures are now becoming available for the *first time, from local National Insurance offices which forward returns to the County Medical Officer. The total number of cases of each illness among insured persons drawing sickness benefit therefrom is thus not known. This while being of considerable help will still by no means give a complete picture, as it will show disease only among wage-earners who comprise probably rather less than half the total population and entirely excludes children under the age of sixteen.

Ideally, the M.O.H. (who is, of course a fanatic) would like to know, in addition to the number of cases, the *age and sex incidence, the income-group distribution, the housing conditions, the occupational and heredity factors. Armed with such knowledge, he would really begin to have a picture of the state of health of his district and to have reliable data on which to base the working-out of any schemes to improve the position.

I believe that the only way in which figures of real significance could be obtained would be by an annual return from all practitioners of the cases of sickness which they have seen and treated. I am well aware that this would be a most formidable task—perhaps even an impossible one, but the general practitioners are the only people in the country who have in their possession all the material facts relating to the sickness of the nation as a whole.

* Certain large-scale investigations have been carried out by individual medical observers in this field. While they are valuable and illuminating, they give a picture of disease at a given moment, and do not show trends or movements of disease over a period.

HOUSING SITUATION

The housing situation continues to be somewhere between very bad and desperate. Conditions in some of the rural areas are heartbreaking and it is very true to say that one half of the people has no idea how the other half lives. Nor is it possible to envisage any betterment in the forseeable future. Housing now gives place as a priority, in all official pronouncements on policy, to re-armament—and we are assured that the re-armament drive is only *begining*.

In connection with housing, I have to report most regretfully that the Ministry of Health failed to agree to a suggestion put forward by the Wallingford R.D.C. that the Beau Regard Camp at Sotwell should be closed. The R.D.C., after two reports from myself on the matter, one concerning a case of active Pulmonary Tuberculosis, took the view that Beau Regard, originally licensed as a summer camping-ground, had now changed its status, and by becoming a permanent residential camp, for which purpose it was not built and is still completely unsuitable, had forfeited its licence.

The Ministry on being appealed to proved of the opinion, however, that if the camp were closed at the instigation of the Wallingford R.D. the burden of rehousing all its inhabitants would fall on that council. This would be an impossible task, and in any case, a most unfair one since a considerable proportion of the inhabitants have no connection with and no real claim on the Wallingford R.D., being employed either in Oxford or across the river in the Bullingdon R.D.

Living conditions in Beau Regard are, in my view, disgraceful and it is a measure of the desperate housing shortage in the district that this camp must continue to remain open.

It is composed of technically "furnished" chalets which are little larger than the average beach-hut, of much the same design and in no way suitable for permanent all-the-year-round residence. Nissen huts are, for all their failings, palatial accommodation by comparison. The rent of the chalets has been such that in several cases the rent tribunal has taken action, but in many cases the occupants will not go to the tribunal for fear of being evicted. Washing and W.C. facilities are in a block two hundred yards from the furthest huts and as the site is extremely muddy in wintertime and often enveloped in river mist, the plight of the occupants, including children, who require to use the lavatory at night can well be imagined. Hot water for baths is available once a week, and the electric light, from a private plant which makes the use of electrical apparatus impossible, is switched off nightly at 11 p.m.

An †undertaking recently given by the proprietor that in future he will rent chalets only to people who also take full board (i.e. meals in the café block) does not appear to me to help the tenants' living conditions much.

If these conditions have any saving grace it is that they are a very vivid example of the undesirability of licensing a site, since such a licence can never be revoked. By far the better procedure is to licence the individual movable dwellings, in which case each licence is valid for one year only, and its subsequent renewal each year is conditional on the Local Authority being satisfied as to its suitability.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis shows for the third year in succession a rise throughout the area.

The death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 0.26 per thousand of the population, as compared with a figure of 0.36 per thousand for England and Wales and 0.33 per thousand for 148 smaller towns.

†A further undertaking has now been received by the R.D.C. that no Chalets will in future be let to families with children.

Fuller particulars of the position are given in the Tuberculosis table. See pages 24 and 25, where it has had to be placed in order to get a double page.

OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

These numbered less than a third of the 1949 figure, due chiefly to the tremendous drop in Measles (from 703 to 35). This is accounted for partly because the 700 odd who had the disease in 1949 were of course immune in 1950, but it also almost certainly due as well to a diminution in virulence in the germ itself.

Food Poisoning.—Nothing in the nature of an outbreak was notified. Three cases in the same household in the Wallingford Rural District were traced to duck eggs.

Poliomyelitis.—Six cases were notified, five paralytic and one non-paralytic, as compared with seven in 1949. This gave an attack-rate of 0.16 per thousand of the population as compared with 0.17 for England and Wales.

There were no deaths from Infectious Disease other than Tuberculosis deaths.

For fuller details see Infectious Diseases Tables, pp. 16-17.

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

My hope for a school clinic (or clinics) in the area did not materialise. Under the National Health Act the responsibility for treating minor ailments has passed from Local Authorities to the General Practitioner. There is however, I believe, nothing to stop Local Authorities continuing, or even establishing afresh, school clinics if they wish to do so.

In my experience the General Practitioner often does not have the opportunity of seeing minor ailments such as Impetigo, Warts, Whitlows, Abrasions, Septic Sores, Otorrhoea, etc., which were formerly dealt with at School Clinics. The parents simply don't bother to take the child unless its general condition is obviously suffering, and all sorts of home treatment ranging from unsuitable ointments to total neglect are substituted.

The same holds good in the case of Diphtheria Immunisation, and I cite the following case as proving my contention.

With the permission of the County Medical Officer I sent out consent-for-immunisation forms to all the children (200) in a large mixed Junior school in the area. 150 (75%) forms were returned consenting to a boost injection which was duly given.

This meant that 75% of the children were not fully protected against Diphtheria and I have no reason to suppose this school in any way atypical. To my knowledge a considerable proportion of these only partially protected children had been advised by myself and/or the School Nurse to seek 'boost' immunisation and the parents had not contacted the practitioner. My experience with regard to 'boost'-dosage has consistently been that if you offer this service and make all arrangements for it to be carried out and it involves absolutely no expenditure of effort on the parent's side apart from appending a signature to a consent-form (though this is often effort enough!) then the parents will 'co-operate' (i.e. let you get on with it). In other words, they are not anti-immunisation, but only anti-effort.

Although it is most irritating so to have to spoon-feed the public, I feel it is better to do it than to risk the total of immunes falling to a percentage which could seriously endanger the population. The reluctance of parents to be bothered is really in itself a backhanded tribute to the efficacy of immunisation, for it means that they do not realise how deadly diphtheria can be. They have never seen nor heard of a case of the disease which, thirty or forty years ago, struck terror into every parent's heart. Preventive Medicine has put another killer on the retired list—but a killer which will make a comeback the moment we give it a chance to do so.

Note: Throughout the following Report, the figures in brackets refer to 1949, for the purpose of comparison.

The following abbreviations are used
M for Male
F for Female
T for Total
U.D. for Urban District
R.D. for Rural District

VITAL STATISTICS

AREA AND POPULATION

DISTRICT	AREA IN ACRES	*POPULATION	PERSONS PER ACRE
Wallingford Borough	760	3690 (3390)	4.9 (4.5)
Wallingford Rural District	21790	15250 (14500)	.7 (.7)
Wantage Urban District	2797	5194 (4840)	1.9 (1.7)
Wantage Rural District	74181	14776 (14430)	.2 (.2)
TOTALS	99528	38910 (37160)	.4 (.4)

* POPULATION. In 1949 the Registrar General's population referred only to the civilian population. In 1950 the figure is called "Home Population" and includes H.M. Forces stationed in the area.

COMPARABILITY FACTOR

The following observations have been received from the Registrar-General's office:

Birth Comparability Factor: The purpose of the factor is to correct for abnormalities of a local population compared with that for the country as a whole. The crude birth rate of any local area when multiplied by its comparability factor should be comparable with the crude birth rate of England and Wales and with that of any other area which has been adjusted by its own factor. The birth factor was calculated as follows:—

A local fertility incidence index was obtained by dividing the estimated number of women aged 18-44 in the local population at the 31st December, 1947, by the all sex/ages population of the area at the same date. A national index was calculated in a similar manner. The ratio of the national to the local fertility index represents the comparability factor for the local area.

As estimates of the population for local areas by sex and age are not normally made by this Department, the only estimates at present available for the calculation of the factor are those based on the special count of records in local National Registration Offices at the 31st December, 1947, which relate to the civilian population. (The revision of the factors this year was due to the necessity of including an allowance for the armed forces in the area.)

In the circumstances it appears that there has been a rapid change in the sex/age structure of the population of Wantage U.D. since December 1947, due no doubt to the growth of the Ministry of Supply estate mentioned in your letter, causing distortion of the factor as at present calculated. The factors will be revised next year when the 1951 Census sex/age populations of local areas become available.

Death Comparability Factor: The purpose of the death area comparability factor is the same as for births and is correct for abnormalities in the sex and age distribution of a local population as compared with that for the country as a whole.

The latest factor was based on the sex-age distribution of the population as at the 31st December, 1947, and was calculated as follows.

The mean death rates at the various sex and age groups in England and Wales as a whole were calculated by dividing the deaths in those groups by the estimated population in the same groups. (The deaths used were the mean of the recorded numbers in the years 1947 and 1948). These rates were regarded as the standard age-mortality rates for the whole country. The standard age rates were then multiplied by the estimated population in the same sex-age groups of each local area. The sum of the products in respect of each area gave the number of deaths which would have occurred in the area at the rate experienced in the country as a whole, and this number divided by the all ages population of the area gave the expected mean local death rate. The ratio of the crude death rate of England and Wales to the expected mean local death rate represents the comparability factor for the local area.

LIVE BIRTHS

(These are adjusted by the Registrar-General for Inward and Outward Transfers)

District	Live Births			* Population	Live Birth-Rate per 1,000 of population	†Comparability Factor	Corrected Birth-Rate.
	M	F	Total				
Wallingford Borough	24	23	47 (64)	3690 (3390)	12.7 (18.9)	1.09	13.9
Wallingford R. D.	144	130	274 (270)	15250 (14500)	18.0 (18.3)	1.11	19.9
Wantage U. D.	98	62	160 (111)	5194 (4840)	30.8 (22.9)	1.12	34.5
Wantage R. D.	147	137	284 (273)	14776 (14430)	19.2 (18.9)	1.05	20.2
Whole Area	413	352	765 (718)	38910 (37160)	19.7 (19.3)	—	—
England & Wales					15.8 (16.7)		15.8 (16.7)

* See note on Page 8.

† See Page 8.

STILL BIRTHS

District	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Total			Still-Birth Rate per 1000 population
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Wallingford Borough	—	1	1 (1)	1	1	2 (—)	1	2	3 (1)	0.81
Wallingford R. D.	2	—	2 (4)			— (—)	2	—	2 (4)	0.13
Wantage U. D.	2	4	6 (1)			— (—)	2	4	6 (1)	1.16
Wantage R. D.	4	3	7 (5)			— (—)	4	3	7 (5)	0.47
Total for Area	8	8	16 (11)	1	1	2 (—)	9	9	18 (11)	0.46 (0.30)
England & Wales										0.37 (0.39)

COMPARISON BETWEEN LEGITIMATE AND ILLEGITIMATE STILL-BIRTH RATES

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH

Total legitimate births 46, of which 1 was still.

Total illegitimate births 4, of which 2 were still.

WALLINGFORD R.D.

Total legitimate births 260, of which 2 were still.

Total illegitimate births 16, of which 0 were still.

WANTAGE U.D.

Total legitimate births 160, of which 6 were still.

Total illegitimate births 6, of which 0 were still.

WANTAGE R.D.

Total legitimate births 272, of which 7 were still.

Total illegitimate births 19, of which 0 were still.

AREA AS A WHOLE

Total legitimate births 738, of which 16 were still, a rate of **21.78 per 1,000** total legitimate births.

Total illegitimate births 45, of which 2 were still, a rate of **44.4 per 1,000** total illegitimate births.

The figures in the individual districts are too small to be of value, but the area as a whole shows that still-births are considerably more common in illegitimate than legitimate pregnancies, due almost certainly to less ante-natal medical care.

DEATHS

Note: These are adjusted by the Registrar-General for Inward and Outward Transfers.

For Comparability Factor, see p. 9.
For Population, see note on p. 8

District	Deaths			Population	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Comparability Factor	Corrected Death Rate
	M	F	T				
Wallingford Borough	25	22	47 (45)	3690 (3390)	12.7 (13.3)	0.82	10.41
Wallingford R. D.	87	59	146 (144)	15250 (14500)	9.6 (9.9)	1.02	9.79
Wantage U. D.	29	37	66 (80)	5194 (4840)	12.7 (16.5)	0.82	10.41
Wantage R. D.	71	72	143 (136)	14776 (14430)	9.7 (9.4)	0.97	9.41
Whole Area	212	190	402 (405)	38910 (37160)	10.3 (10.9)		
England & Wales					11.6 (11.7)		11.6 (11.7)

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

18 deaths under 1 year occurred during the year throughout the area (12 Boys and 6 Girls), confirming the well-established fact that male infants are not so resistant as are female.

Total live births throughout the area numbered 765.

These figures give an

Infant Mortality Rate 25.1 per thousand live births. (15.3)

(England and Wales: 29.8)

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH. 1 Boy and 3 Girls died under the age of 1 year out of 47 live births, giving an **Infant Mortality Rate** 85.1 (15.6)

WALLINGFORD R.D. 3 Boys and 1 Girl died under the age of 1 year out of 274 live births, giving an **Infant Mortality Rate** 14.6 (25.9)

WANTAGE U.D. 3 Boys and 1 Girl died under the age of 1 year out of 160 live births, giving an **Infant Mortality Rate** 25.0 (9.0)

WANTAGE R.D. 5 Boys and 1 Girl died under the age of 1 year out of 284 live births, giving an **Infant Mortality Rate** 21.1 (7.6)

ILLEGITIMATE INFANT MORTALITY RATE

There have been 2 deaths under one year (1 Boy and 1 Girl) out of 43 illegitimate live births, giving an

Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate of 46.5

CAUSES OF DEATH
IN THE FOUR DISTRICTS CONSTITUTING THE AREA 1949 AND 1950

N.B.—Since the last Annual Report the Registrar-General has somewhat modified the classification of causes of death. Causes quoted in 1949 but not in 1950 are marked *, and those not quoted in 1949 but quoted in 1950 are marked †.
For percentages of total deaths in the area and in the individual districts see p.14

Cause of Death	Wallingford Borough			Wallingford Rural District			Wantage Urban District			Wantage Rural District			Totals all Districts		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Heart Disease—Total	9	5	14	32	19	51	9	8	17	21	28	49	71	60	**131**
	(7)	(6)	(13)	(22)	(15)	(37)	(14)	(14)	(28)	(20)	(24)	(44)	(63)	(59)	(122)
† comprising															
Coronary Disease	5	1	6	18	8	26	2	—	2	7	7	14	32	16	48
Arterio-sclerosis	1	1	2	1	3	4	1	—	1	1	2	3	4	6	10
Other heart conditions	3	3	6	13	8	21	6	8	14	13	19	32	35	38	73
Cancer—All Sites	4	4	8	11	11	22	5	8	13	12	7	19	32	30	**62**
	(6)	(2)	(8)	(18)	(10)	(28)	(3)	(10)	(13)	(9)	(13)	(22)	(36)	(35)	(71)
comprising															
*Buccal cavity & oesophagus	(1)	(—)	(1)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(2)	(—)	(2)	(3)	(—)	(3)
Womb		—	—		1	1		—	—		—	—		1	1
		(—)	(—)		(—)	(—)		(1)	(1)		(1)	(1)		(2)	(2)
Stomach and Duodenum	—	1	1	4	2	6	—	1	1	2	—	2	6	4	10
	(1)	(1)	(2)	(6)	(1)	(7)	(—)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(9)	(4)	(13)
Breast		—	—		3	3		1	1		3	3		7	7
		(—)	(—)		(4)	(4)		(5)	(5)		(3)	(3)		(12)	(12)
†Lungs	2	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	5	—	5
All other sites.	2	3	5	6	5	11	5	6	11	8	4	12	21	18	39
	(4)	(1)	(5)	(12)	(5)	(17)	(3)	(3)	(6)	(5)	(8)	(13)	(24)	(17)	(41)
'Stroke' (Intracranial vascular lesions)	2	3	5	9	7	16	3	10	13	10	14	24	24	34	**58**
	(1)	(5)	(6)	(9)	(8)	(17)	(3)	(12)	(15)	(5)	(9)	(14)	(18)	(34)	(52)
Chest Diseases—excluding T.B.	1	—	1	5	4	9	5	3	8	13	4	17	24	11	**35**
	(—)	(1)	(1)	(13)	(4)	(17)	(3)	(3)	(6)	(11)	(7)	(18)	(27)	(15)	(42)
comprising Bronchitis	—	—	—	2	1	3	2	1	3	9	3	12	13	5	18
	(—)	(—)	(—)	(3)	(2)	(5)	(2)	(2)	(4)	(8)	(3)	(11)	(13)	(7)	(20)
Pneumonia	1	—	1	3	2	5	1	1	2	3	1	4	8	4	12
	(—)	(1)	(1)	(7)	(—)	(7)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(1)	(3)	(4)	(8)	(4)	(12)
Other respiratory disease	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	3	1	—	1	3	2	5
	(—)	(—)	(—)	(3)	(2)	(5)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(6)	(4)	(10)
Diseases of the circulatory System	—	1	1	3	2	5	1	2	3	5	2	7	9	7	**16**
	(—)	(—)	(—)	(1)	(—)	(1)	(2)	(2)	(4)	(—)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(5)	(8)

Tuberculosis—Total	—	—	—	5	2	7	1	—	1	1	2	3	7	4	**11**	
	(—)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(5)	(1)	(6)	(7)	(5)	(12)	
comprising Respiratory	—	—	—	5	2	7	1	—	1	—	2	2	6	4	10	
	(—)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(4)	(1)	(5)	(6)	(5)	(11)	
Other forms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	
	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(1)	(—)	(1)	(1)	(—)	(1)	
Accidents & Violence (excluding Road accidents & including Homicide)	1	—	1	3	2	5	1	2	3	1	—	1	6	4	**10**	
	(1)	(—)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(1)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(5)	(5)	(10)	
Kidney Disease	1	1	2	1	1	2	—	1	1	—	2	2	2	5	**7**	
	(1)	(—)	(1)	(—)	(1)	(1)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(3)	(2)	(5)	
Digestive Diseases comprising—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	2	**4**	
	(—)	(2)	(2)	(4)	(4)	(8)	(3)	(2)	(5)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(8)	(10)	(18)	
Gastric & Duodenal ulcers	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	2	
	(—)	(—)	(—)	(2)	(—)	(2)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(4)	(1)	(5)	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	2	
	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	
*Appendicitis	(—)	(—)	(—)	(1)	(—)	(1)	(1)	(—)	(1)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(2)	(—)	(2)	
*Other digestive causes	(—)	(2)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(5)	(—)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(9)	(11)	
Road Accidents	1	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	—	**4**	
	(1)	(—)	(1)	(3)	(—)	(3)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(1)	(—)	(1)	(5)	(—)	(5)	
Influenza	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	2	2	1	3	**4**	
	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(1)	(1)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(3)	
Diabetes	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	3	**3**	
	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(1)	(1)	(—)	(1)	(1)	
Suicide	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	**2**	
	(1)	(—)	(1)	(2)	(—)	(2)	(1)	(—)	(1)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(4)	(—)	(4)	
†Prostate Gland enlargement	1		1	1		1	—		—	—		—	2		**2**	
Congenital Malformations *(combined with " Birth Injuries " 1949)	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	**2**	
	(—)	(—)	(—)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(1)	(1)	(2)	
Syphilis	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	**1**	
	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(2)	
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**—**	
	(—)	(—)	(—)	(1)	(—)	(1)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(1)	(—)	(1)	
*Prematurity	(—)	(—)	(—)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(—)	(1)	(—)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(2)	(4)	
Maternal causes other than puerperal & post-abortive sepsis		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	—		—	**—**	
		(—)	(—)		(—)	(—)		(—)	(—)		(1)	(1)		(1)	(1)	
All other causes	5	6	11	11	9	20	4	2	6	5	8	13	25	25	**50**	
	(3)	(7)	(10)	(7)	(11)	(18)	(—)	(1)	(1)	(12)	(1)	(13)	(22)	(20)	(42)	
Totals. All Causes	**25**	**22**	**47**	**87**	**59**	**146**	**29**	**37**	**66**	**71**	**72**	**143**	**212**	**190**	**402**	
	(21)	(24)	(45)	(85)	(59)	(144)	(32)	(48)	(80)	(69)	(67)	(136)	(207)	(198)	(405)	

SUMMARY OF CAUSES OF DEATH THROUGHOUT THE AREA 1949 AND 1950

Cause	No. of Cases	%age of Total	Male No.	Male %age	Female No.	Female %age
Heart disease	131	32.59 (29.63)	71	33.49 (30.43)	60	31.58 (29.75)
Cancer (All forms)	62	15.42 (17.54)	32	15.09 (17.39)	30	15.79 (17.75)
Intracranial vascular lesions (' Strokes ')	58	14.43 (12.84)	24	11.32 (8.7)	34	17.89 (17.25)
Chest diseases (excluding T.B.)	35	8.71 (10.37)	24	11.32 (13.04)	11	5.79 (7.75)
Diseases of the circulatory system	16	3.98 (1.98)	9	4.25 (1.45)	7	3.68 (2.25)
Respiratory T.B.	10	2.49 (2.72)	6	2.83 (2.9)	4	2.11 (2.25)
Accidents	8	1.99 (2.47)	5	2.36 (2.42)	3	1.58 (2.25)
Kidney Disease	7	1.74 (1.24)	2	0.94 (1.45)	5	2.63 (1.25)
Road accidents	4	1.00 (1.24)	4	1.89 (2.42)	—	— (—)
Influenza	4	1.00 (0.75)	1	0.47 (0.48)	3	1.58 (1.25)
Diabetes	3	0.75 (0.25)	—	— (—)	3	1.58 (0.60)
Stomach & Duodenal Ulcers	2	0.50 (1.24)	1	0.47 (1.93)	1	0.53 (0.60)
Suicide	2	0.50 (1.00)	2	0.94 (1.93)	—	—
Homicide	2	0.50 (—)	1	0.47 (—)	1	0.53 (—)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	0.50 (3.21)	1	0.47 (1.93)	1	0.53 (4.25)
Prostate gland enlargement	2	0.50 (—)	2	0.94 (—)	—	— (—)
Congenital malformations	2	0.50 (0.50)	—	— (0.48)	2	1.05 (0.60)
Non-respiratory T.B.	1	0.25 (0.25)	1	0.47 (0.48)	—	— (—)
Syphilis	1	0.25 (0.50)	1	0.47 (0.48)	—	— (0.60)
Other, ill-defined causes	50	12.41 (10.37)	25	11.74 (10.63)	25	13.06 (10.25)
TOTALS	402	100.01	212	99.93	190	100.21

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The usual practice in Annual Reports with regard to Infectious Disease is simply to give a bald statement of the number of cases of each Infectious Disease which have occurred in the district in the past twelve months. This, in my view, tells the reader of the report very little of value and I have therefore tried to amplify this procedure somewhat.

The first of the following tables (Total Infectious Disease 1948-50) Table 1, sets out the number of cases over three years, so that it is possible to see at a glance whether any particular infectious disease has increased or decreased during the period; the number of cases hospitalised (unfortunately not obtainable for 1948 and 1949) gives an indication of what infectious diseases are the most serious and it shows clearly enough that Pulmonary Tuberculosis (with 57% of cases severe enough to require hospitalisation) is by far the most serious of the Infectious Diseases, a fact which is all too often forgotten, possibly because of its gradual onset.

The mere number of Infectious Disease cases, however, is not very informative until it is brought into relationship with the population of the districts concerned. This has been done in Table 2 which shows the attack rate per thousand of the population compared with the figure for towns of under 50,000 population in England and Wales wherever such figures are available.

TUBERCULOSIS

The Tuberculosis Table is given on pages 24 and 25. This is because its somewhat complicated layout requires a double page.

TOTAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE 1948-50. TABLE 1

() = corresponding figure for 1949. [] = corresponding figure for 1948.

Disease	Wallingford Borough		Wallingford Rural District		Wantage Urban District		Wantage Rural District		Total for the Area	
	Notified Cases	Hospitalised Cases 1950	Notified Cases	Hospitalised Cases 1950	Notified Cases	Hospitalised Cases 1950	Notified Cases	Hospitalised Cases 1950	Notified Cases	Hospitalised Cases 1950
Acute Poliomyelitis comprising	—(—) [—]	—	4 (2) [—]	4	1 (1) [—]	1	1 (4) [—]	1	6 (7) [—]	6
Paralytic cases	— (—) [—]	—	4 (2) [—]	4	1 (1) [—]	1	— (4) [—]	—	5 (7) [—]	5
Non-Paralytic cases	— (—) [—]	—	— (—) [—]	—	— (—) [—]	—	1 (—) [—]	1	1 (—) [—]	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	— (1) [2]	—	4 (3) [—]	2	— (2) [—]	—	4 (1) [5]	1	8 (7) [7]	3
Cerebro-spinal (' spotted ') Fever	— (—) [—]	—	— (—) [—]	—	— (1) [—]	—	1 (1) [—]	1	1 (2) [—]	1
Dysentery	— (—) [—]	—	1 (1) [5]	1	6 (—) [—]	—	1 (—) [—]	1	8 (1) [5]	2
Erysipelas	— (—) [—]	—	1 (—) [—]	1	— (—) [1]	—	2 (—) [—]	1	3 (—) [1]	2
Food Poisoning	— (—) [—]	—	3 (—) [—]	—	— (3) [1]	—	6 (2) [—]	4	9 (5) [1]	4
Measles	4 (9)[127]	—	16(148)[134]	—	7(251) [2]	—	8(295) [98]	1	35(703)[361]	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	— (—) [—]	—	— (—) [1]	—	— (—) [—]	—	1 (—) [—]	1	1 (—) [1]	1
Puerperal Pyrexia (' Childbed Fever ')	— (—) [—]	—	1 (—) [—]	—	— (1) [1]	—	— (3) [—]	—	1 (4) [1]	—
Scarlet Fever	1 (—) [1]	1	17 (11) [5]	5	15 (4) [6]	3	42 (18) [9]	2	75 (33) [21]	11
Tuberculosis comprising	6 (5) [4]	4	22 (25) [19]	9	7 (6) [6]	5	20 (18) [16]	13	55 (54) [45]	31
Pulmonary	5 (4) [2]	4	18 (23) [14]	7	7 (5) [6]	5	19 (16) [10]	12	49 (48) [32]	28
Non-Pulmonary	1 (1) [2]	—	4 (2) [5]	2	— (1) [—]	—	1 (2) [6]	1	6 (6) [13]	3
Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever	— (—) [—]	—	— (2) [—]	—	— (—) [—]	—	— (—) [—]	—	— (2) [—]	—
Whooping Cough	16 (26) [9]	—	14 (34) [21]	—	12 (9) [17]	—	33 (62) [13]	1	75(131) [60]	1
Totals	27 (41)[143]	5	83(226)[185]	22	48(270) [34]	9	119(404)[141]	27	277(949)[503]	63

8

TOTAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE 1948-50. TABLE 2

Attack Rate per Thousand of the Population

(N/A — not available)

Disease	Wallingford Borough				Wallingford Rural District				Wantage Urban District				Wantage Rural District				Whole District				Eng.& Wales
	1948	1949	1950	Mean 1948-50	1948	1949	1950	Mean 1948-50	1948	1949	1950	Mean 1948-50	1948	1949	1950	Mean 1948-50	1948	1949	1950	Mean 1948-50	Towns under 50.000 p. 1950
Acute Poliomyelitis comprising	—	—	—	—	—	0.14	0.26	0.14	—	0.21	0.19	0.14	—	0.28	0.07	0.11	—	0.19	0.16	0.12	0.17
Paralytic cases	—	—	—	—	—	0.14	0.26	0.14	—	0.21	0.19	0.14	—	0.28	—	0.09	—	0.19	0.13	0.11	0.11
Non-paralytic case	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.07	0.02	—	—	0.03	0.01	0.06
Acute pneumonia	0.60	0.29	—	0.29	—	0.21	0.26	0.16	—	0.41	—	0.14	0.35	0.07	0.27	0.23	0.19	0.19	0.21	0.20	0.61
Cerebro-spinal (' spotted ') Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.21	—	0.07	—	0.07	0.07	0.05	—	0.05	0.03	0.03	N/A
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	0.35	0.07	0.07	0.16	—	—	1.16	0.41	—	—	0.07	0.02	0.14	0.03	0.03	0.06	N/A
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.07	0.02	0.21	—	—	0.07	—	—	0.14	0.05	0.03	—	0.08	0.04	0.16
Food Poisoning (confirmed cases)	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.20	0.07	0.21	0.62	—	0.27	—	0.14	0.41	0.18	0.08	0.13	0.23	0.13	0.14
Measles	37.69	2.76	1.13	13.74	9.28	10.30	1.07	6.81	0.43	51.88	1.42	18.01	6.89	20.58	0.55	9.34	9.14	19.10	0.93	9.51	8.36
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	0.07	—	—	0.02	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.07	0.02	—	—	0.03	0.01	N/A
Puerperal Pyrexia (' Childbed Fever ')	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.07	0.02	0.21	0.21	—	0.14	—	0.20	—	0.07	—	0.11	0.03	0.04	N/A
Scarlet Fever	0.30	—	0.27	0.19	0.35	0.76	1.12	0.75	1.29	0.83	2.89	1.70	0.63	1.25	2.85	1.59	0.57	0.89	1.93	1.14	1.23
Tuberculosis comprising	1.19	1.48	1.63	1.44	1.32	1.73	1.45	1.50	1.29	1.24	1.35	1.29	1.12	1.25	1.36	1.25	1.22	1.45	1.41	1.37	N/A
Pulmonary	0.59	1.18	1.36	1.05	0.97	1.59	1.18	1.25	1.29	1.03	1.35	1.23	0.70	1.11	1.29	1.04	0.87	1.29	1.26	1.15	N/A
Non-Pulmonary	0.59	0.30	0.27	0.38	0.35	0.14	0.26	0.25	—	0.21	—	0.07	0.42	0.14	0.07	0.21	0.35	0.16	0.15	0.22	N/A
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	0.14	—	0.05	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.05	—	0.02	0.00
Whooping Cough	2.67	7.69	4.34	5.77	1.45	2.36	0.92	1.59	3.65	1.87	2.32	2.59	0.91	4.30	2.24	2.49	1.39	3.53	1.94	2.28	3.15
Total of Diseases quoted by Registrar-General	41.26	10.74	5.74	19.99	11.08	13.91	3.90	9.54	5.79	55.82	6.82	22.92	8.78	26.62	6.53	13.99	11.35	24.08	5.48	13.44	13.82
Total : All Diseases	42.45	12.22	7.37	21.43	12.82	15.71	5.49	11.29	7.29	57.48	9.33	24.83	9.90	28.14	8.10	15.40	12.71	25.72	7.01	14.95	

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following are the figures of diphtheria immunisation forwarded by the County Medical Officer.

District	Primary Injections		'Booster' Doses	
Wallingford Borough	88	(28)	17	(Nil)
Wallingford Rural District	196	(131)	4	(Nil)
Wantage Urban District	55	(83)	2	(5)
Wantage Rural District	152	(189)	2	(Nil)
TOTALS	491	(431)	25	(5)

The position in regard to 'booster' doses is discussed on p. 7.

VENEREAL DISEASE

The County Medical Officer reports a further decrease in all figures in 1950, as compared with 1949. This is now the third year in succession which has shown a decrease.

Clinics are held as follows:

ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL, READING

Males: Wednesdays 2 p.m. Saturdays 4 p.m.

Females: Wednesdays 4 p.m. Thursdays 2 p.m. Saturdays 2 p.m.

RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY, OXFORD

Males: Wednesdays 6 p.m. Saturdays 3 p.m.

Females: Mondays 6 p.m. Wednesdays 3 p.m.

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH

Population. (Registrar-General's mid-year estimated "Home" population. See note on p. 8.) .3,690 (3,390).

Live Births. M. 24: F. 23: T. 47 (64).

Live Birth Rate Per Thousand of the Population. 12.7 (18.9).

Comparability Factor. (See p. 8.) 1.09.

Corrected Live Birth Rate. 13.9.

Live Birth Rate England and Wales. 15.8 (16.7).

Still Births. M. 1: F. 2: T. 3 (1).

Still Birth Rate Per Thousand of the Population. 0.81.

Still Birth Rate for England and Wales. 0.37 (0.39).

Deaths. M. 25: F. 22: T. 47 (45).

Death Rate Per Thousand of the Population. 12.7 (13.3).

Comparability Factor. (See p. 9.) 0.82.

Corrected Death Rate. 10.41.

Death Rate for England and Wales. 11.6 (11.7).

Deaths Under One Year. M. 1: F. 3: T. 4.

Infant Mortality Rate Per Thousand Live Births. 85.1 (15.6)

Infant Mortality Rate England and Wales. 25.1 (29.8).

Maternal Deaths. Nil.

Puerperal Mortality Rate. Nil.

Total Maternal Mortality Rate. Nil.

CAUSES OF DEATH TABLE

Owing to changes in classification by the Registrar-General's Office, only certain of the 1949 percentages are available for the purposes of comparison.

Cause of Death	Total Deaths	% of Total Deaths	1949	Male Deaths	% of Male Deaths	1949	Female Deaths	% of Female Deaths	1949
Heart Disease	14	29.82	(28.88)	9	36.00	(33.33)	5	22.73	(25.00)
made up as follows :—									
Coronary Disease and Angina	6—12.78%			5—20.00%			1— 4.55%		
Arterio-Sclerosis	2— 4.26%			1— 4.00%			1— 4.55%		
Other Heart Disease	6—12.78%			3—12.00%			3—13.64%		
Cancer—All Sites	8	17.04	(17.78)	4	16.00	(28.58)	4	18.18	(8.34)
made up as follows :									
Stomach	1— 2.13%			—			1— 4.55%		
Lung	2— 4.26%			2— 8.00%			—		
Breast and womb	—			—			—		
All other sites	5—10.63%			2— 8.00%			3—13.64%		
Stroke	5	10.63	(13.33)	2	8.00	(4.76)	3	13.64	(20.83)
Nephritis	2	4.26	(2.22)	1	4.00	(4.76)	1	4.55	
Pneumonia	1	2.13	(2.22)	1	4.00	(—)	—		(4.17)
Gastric & Duodenal Ulcers	1	2.13		—		(—)	1	4.55	(—)
Hyperplasia of the Prostate Gland	1	2.13		1	4.00		—		
Diabetes	1	2.13		—			1	4.55	
Circulatory System Disease	1	2.13	(—)	—			1	4.55	
Motor Accidents	1	2.13	(2.22)	1	4.00	(4.76)	—		
Other Accidents	1	2.13	(2.22)	1	4.00	(4.76)	—		
Other ill-defined causes	11	23.39	(22.22)	5	20.00	(14.29)	6	27.27	(29.17)
Totals	47	100.05%		25	100.00%		22	100.02%	

NOTE: Mr. C. J. Flooks, M.Inst.H.E., M.S.I.A., the Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector was in failing health throughout the year, finally relinquishing his work altogether in September. It is known that he made many inspections of which he has left no record.

No figures have come to light for inspections made of the following:

Catering Establishments

Bakehouses

Piggeries

Slaughterhouses

Factories and Workshops

nor are there any records of the number of defects or nuisances abated which makes the provision of a summary of the inspector's work during the year impracticable.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER

No additions were made to the public supply, and the yield from the five boreholes continued to be satisfactory. Bacteriological and chemical samples proved satisfactory.

There are still two houses in the Borough not connected to the main supply.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Difficulties arose throughout the winter months due to inadequate sewage disposal facilities. The provision of a joint disposal works with part of the Wallingford R.D. is still sub judice, but the desirability of it is recognised by both parties.

HOUSES CONNECTED TO THE SEWER

Thirty-six houses were connected to the sewer during the year. There are still six properties unconnected to the sewer.

RODENT CONTROL

A whole-time Rodent Officer is employed jointly by the Borough and the Wallingford R.D.C. When called upon he deals with infestations at private and business premises and disinfests at the refuse tip and sewage disposal works.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses at the end of 1950	989
Number of Council Houses	193
Number of new Council Houses erected during the year	25
Number of private enterprise houses erected during the year	9

All the properties above are of permanent construction.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

There were four licensed movable dwellings at the end of the year.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES

There are none such on the register.

SELECTION OF TENANTS

The points scheme is working satisfactorily and is assisting the Council in the selection of tenants.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are nine catering establishments within the Borough.

BAKEHOUSES WITHIN THE BOROUGH

There are five bakehouses within the Borough.

PIGGERIES WITHIN THE BOROUGH

There are five piggeries within the Borough.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES WITHIN THE BOROUGH

There are four licensed slaughterhouses within the Borough, but none of them are at present in use.

FOOD INSPECTIONS

The following items were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered.

Butcher's Meat 60½lbs., Wet Fish 105lbs., Rabbits 48, Cheese, 16½lbs. Tinned Soup 1, Sauce 2¾lbs., Milk 132 pints, Tinned Fish 2½lbs., Tinned Vegetables 5¾lbs., Tinned Fruit 21¼lbs., Tinned Meat 30¼lbs.

MILK

Cowsheds and Dairy Farms in the Borough	3
Milkshops in the Borough	2

For inspections of above, see note at top of p. 21.

Retail Purveyors of Milk	7
T.T.	4
T.T. Pasteurised	2
Undesignated	1

ICE CREAM

Producers in the Borough	3
Retailers	13

For samples, see note at top of p. 21.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

There are 16 Factories and 30 Workshops and 0 Workplaces within the Borough. For inspections, see note at top of p. 21.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Population. (Registrar-General's mid-year estimated "Home" population. See note p. 8.) 15,250 (14,500).

Live Births. M. 144: F. 130: T. 274 (270).

Live Birth Rate Per Thousand of the Population. 18.0 (18.3).

Comparability Factor. (See p. 8.) 1.11.

Corrected Live Birth Rate. 19.9

Live Birth Rate, England and Wales. 15.8 (16.7).

Still Births. M. 2: F. Nil: T. 2 (4).

Still Birth Rate Per Thousand of the Population. 0.13.

Still Birth Rate for England and Wales. 0.37 (0.39).

Deaths. M. 87: F. 59: T. 146 (144).

Death Rate Per Thousand of the Population. 9.6 (9.9).

Comparability Factor. (See p. 9.) 1.02.

Corrected Death Rate. 9.79.

Death Rate for England and Wales. 11.6 (11.7).

Deaths Under One Year. M. 3: F. 1: T. 4.

Infant Mortality Rate Per Thousand Live Births. 14.6 (25.9).

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales. 25.1 (29.8).

Maternal Deaths. Nil.

Puerperal Mortality Rate. Nil.

Total Maternal Mortality Rate. Nil

TUBERC

The table shows the NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1950 AND THE DEATHS
The TOTAL number of cases on REGISTER and the TOTAL DEATHS DURING

PULMONARY

Age-Groups	Walling-ford Borough			Walling-ford R.D.			Wantage U.D.			Wantage R.D.			ALL DISTRICTS			Walling-ford Borough			W
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M
0—1 Years																			
2—5 „																			
6—10 „																			
11—15 „																			
16—20 „		1	1		.2	.2		.2	.2	.1	.1	..2	.1	...6	::7				
21—25 „		1	1		..5x2	..x7				x.2	.1	x..3	x...7	x.4	xx::11				
26—30 „		.1	.1	.1	.1	..2	.1	.1	..2	.3	—	.3	...5	...3	:::8				
31—35 „	.1		.1	.2		.2					.2	.2	..3	.2	...5				
36—40 „	.1		.1	.1	1	.2	.1		.1		..3	..3	...3	..4	: :.7		1	1	
41—45 „				2		2				.1	.1	..2	.3	.1	..4				
46—50 „										.2	.1	..3	.2	.1	..3				
51—55 „							1		1				1		1				
56—60 „											1	1		1	1				
61—65 „							.1		.1				.1		.1				
66—70 „																			
71—75 „				1		1							1		1				
76—80 „																			
81—85 „																			
86—90 „											1	1		1	1				
Total New Cases 1950	2	3	5 (4) [2]	12	6	18 (23) [14]	4	3	7 (5) [6]	9	11	20 (16) [10]	27	23	50 (48) [32]	1		1 (1) [2]	
Hospitalised New Cases 1950	2	1	3	5	2	7	3	2	5	5	7	12	15	12	27				
Deaths among New Cases 1950	–	–	–	–	1	1				1		1	1	1	2				
Total Cases on Register 31-12-50	12	9	21	41	28	69	15	13	28	32	27	59	100	77	177	4	3	7	
Total Deaths During 1950	–	–	–	5	2	7	1		1		2	2	6	4	10				

AREA

~~WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT~~

SIS (See pp. 7 and 15.)

URRING AMONG THESE NEW CASES.

YEAR are shown at the foot of the table.

●— one case hospitalised.
x — one death.
() — 1949 figure.
[] — 1948 figure.

PULMONARY

TOTAL—PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY

	Wantage U.D.			Wantage R.D.			ALL DISTRICTS			Walling-ford Borough			Walling-ford R.D.			Wantage U.D.			Wantage R.D.			ALL DISTRICTS		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
					x.1	x.1	x.1		x.1										x.1		x.1	x.1		x.1
1								1	1					1	1								1	1
1								.1	.1					.1	.1								.1	.1
1								1	1		1	1		.3	.3		.2	.2	.1	.1	..2	.1	...7	::8
											1	1	..5	x2	x..7				x.2	.1	x..3	...7	x.4	xx::11
											.1	.1	.1	.1	..2	.1	·1	..2	.3		.3	x...5	...3	:::8
										.1		.1	.2		.2					.2	.2	..3	.2	...5
								1	1	.1	1	.2	.1	1	.2	.1		.1		..3	..3	...3	..5	:: 8
													2		2				.1	.1	..2	.3	.1	..4
																			.2	.1	..3	.2	.1	..3
																1		1				1		1
																	1	1					1	1
																.1		.1				.1		.1
1							.1		.1				.1		.1							.1		.1
													1		1							1		1
																				1	1		1	1
4						1			6			6			22			7			21			56
2)		- (1)		1		(2)	2	4	(6)	2	4	(5)	13	9	(25)	4	3	(6)	10	11	(18)	29	27	(54)
5]		[-]				[6]			[13]			[4]			[19]			[6]			[16]			[45]
2				1		1	2	1	3	2	1	3	6	3	9	3	2	5	6	7	13	17	13	30
				1		1	1		1					1	1				2		2	2	1	3
6	2	2	4	6	5	11	21	17	38	16	12	28	50	35	85	17	15	32	38	32	70	121	94	215
				1		1	1		1				5	2	7	1		1	1	2	3	7	4	11

CAUSES OF DEATH TABLE

Owing to changes in classification by the Registrar-General's Office, only certain of the 1949 percentages (shown in brackets) are available for the purpose of comparison.

Causes of Death	Total Deaths	% of Total Deaths	1949	Male Deaths	% of Male Deaths	1949	Female Deaths	% of Female Deaths	1949
Heart Disease	51	34.93	(25.90)	32	36.77	(25.96)	19	32.19	(25.50)
comprising									
Angina & Coronary Disease	26—17.81%			18—20.68%			8—13.55%		
Arterio-Sclerosis	4— 2.74%			1— 1.15%			3— 5.08%		
Other Conditions	21—14.38%			13—14.94%			8—13.55%		
Cancer—All Sites	22	15.07	(16.08)	11	12.64	(21.24)	11	18.63	(10.20)
comprising : Stomach	6— 4.11%			4— 4.60%			2— 3.39%		
Lung	1— 0.68%			1— 1.15%			—		
Breast	3— 2.05%			—			3— 5.08%		
Womb	1— 0.68%			—			1— 1.69%		
All other sites	11— 7.53%			6— 6.89%			5— 8.47%		
" Stroke "	16	10.96	(11.90)	9	10.34	(10.62)	7	11.86	(13.60)
Chest Disease—Excluding T.B.	9	6.16	(11.90)	5	5.75	(15.34)	4	6.78	(6.80)
comprising : Pneumonia	5— 3.42%			3— 3.45%			2— 3.39%		
Bronchitis	3— 2.05%			2— 2.30%			1— 1.69%		
other respiratory disease	1— 0.68%			—			1— 1.69%		
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	7	4.79	(2.10)	5	5.75	(1.18)	2	3.39	(3.40)
Non-Pulmonary	—			—			—		
Disease of the Circulatory system	5	3.42	(0.70)	3	3.45	(1.18)	2	3.39	(—)
Accidents, excluding road accidents	4	2.74	(2.10)	3	3.45	(2.36)	1	1.69	(1.70)
Road Accidents	2	1.37	(2.10)	2	2.30	(3.54)	—		(—)
Nephritis	2	1.37	(0.70)	1	1.15	(—)	1	1.69	(1.70)
Suicide	2	1.37	(1.40)	2	2.30	(2.36)	—		(—)
Hyperplasia of the prostate gland	1	0.68		1	1.15		—		
Congenital Malformations	1	0.68		—			1	1.69	
Gastritis and Diarrhoea	1	0.68		—			1	1.69	(1.70)
Influenza	1	0.68	(0.70)	1	1.15	(—)	—		
Homicide	1	0.68		—			1	1.69	
Syphilis	1	0.68		1	1.15		—		
Other ill-defined causes	20	13.70	(12.60)	11	12.64	(8.26)	9	15.25	(18.70)
Totals	146	99.96%		87	99.99%		59	99.94%	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER

ADDITIONS DURING THE YEAR TO MAINS SUPPLY

Additions During the Year to Mains Supply

Water Main in Park Road, Didcot, extended. Water Main extended to serve Long Wittenham.

New Connections to Main During the Year **78**

WATER SAMPLES

(a) **From Mains**

Number of samples taken	5
Satisfactory	4
Slightly contaminated	1

N.B. The above sample was probably contaminated at the tap. A check sample taken a few days later proved satisfactory.

(b) **From Wells**

Number taken	63
Grossly contaminated	19
Moderately contaminated	3
Slightly contaminated	13
Satisfactory	28

SEWERAGE

NEW SEWER completed in Winterbrook.

Houses connected during the year to existing sewers 84

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

Dry refuse is collected weekly throughout the Rural District and disposed of at the Council's tip at Long Wittenham. Controlled tipping is the method used.

RODENT CONTROL

A whole-time Rodent Officer is employed jointly by the Wallingford R.D. and the Wallingford Borough. When called upon he deals with infestation at private and business premises and disinfests at the refuse tip and the sewage disposal works.

HOUSING TABLE

Parish	Area in Acres	Population 1950	Persons per Acre	Total No. of Houses	Persons per House	No. of Council Houses	No. of New Permanent Council Houses 1950	No. of New Permanent Private Enterprise Houses 1950	No. of New Temporary Houses 1950
Aston Tirrold	1,900	361	.2	88	4.1	16	Nil	Nil	Nil
Aston Upthorpe	1,175	130	.1	39	3.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell	3,268	984	.3	307	3.2	42	10	4	Nil
*Cholsey	4,260	1995	.5	563	3.5	94	Nil	1	Nil
Didcot	1,938	8577	4.4	2134	4.0	552	47	2	Nil
Hagbourne, E.	978	763	.8	221	3.5	66	6	3	Nil
Hagbourne, W.	1,037	247	.2	64	3.9	25	Nil	1	Nil
Moreton, N.	1,102	310	.3	76	4.1	10	Nil	Nil	Nil
Moreton, S.	1,351	397	.3	103	3.9	38	Nil	1	Nil
Moulsford	1,618	292	.2	78	3.7	10	Nil	1	Nil
Wittenham, Little	888	93	.1	26	3.6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Wittenham, Long	2,275	523	.2	151	3.5	20	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals and Averages	21,790	14672	.7	3850	3.8	873	63	13	Nil

The population of Cholsey does not here include the Berkshire Mental Hospital.

Note: The population of the parishes in the above table are the same as those given in the 1949 annual report. These last were obtained early in 1950 from the parish clerks concerned who were under the impression that the current figures were required. The 1949 table thus appeared with the 1950 populations. The above table is correct for 1950.

SELECTION OF TENANTS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

A points scheme is in operation to assist in the selection of tenants. I have once more gratefully to acknowledge that on the occasions when I have asked for consideration on medical grounds I have always been given it. I, for my part, am therefore particularly careful to keep such recommendations down to a minimum.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

There are two licensed sites in the Rural District, at Long Wittenham and at Beau Regard, Sotwell. Special reference to the latter is made in the preface to this report.

CARAVANS ON INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL LICENCE

There were 58 caravans in the R.D. on individual licence renewable annually, mostly at Manor Farm, Didcot. These are all subject to regular inspection.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS, ESTABLISHMENTS FOR THE PREPARATION AND SALE OF FOOD

All the above have been inspected at least twice in the year and in individual cases considerably more often.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following articles were found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered.

25 x 1lb. Xmas puddings, 7lbs. custard powder, 24lb. cheese, 16lbs. Italian paste, 9½lbs. Pearl Barley, 40lbs. spaghetti, 9½lbs. biscuits, 73 packets cake mixture, 6lbs. prunes, 6 x 12oz. pkts. Cornflakes, 12 x 12 oz. tins sweetened milk, 6 tins condensed milk, 2 x 2lbs. tins syrup, 2 x 2lb. tins pears, 1 x 1lb. tin pineapple chunks, 2 x 4lb. tins jellied beef, 13 tins Luncheon Meat, 1 x 12oz. tins minced beef loaf, 12 x ½lb. Chocolate slices, 28 imported rabbits, 2 stone lemon soles, 83lbs. 4ozs. Corned Beef, 115lbs. jellied veal, 1 x 29oz. tin Peaches, 1 x 1lb. tin Steak and Kidney pudding, 1 x 20oz. tin Meat and Gravy, 11 x 2lbs. 5oz. tin of Pork Brawn, 6 x 20oz. tins Plums, 1 x 4½oz. Apricot Puree, 8 x 6lb. 12oz. tins of stewed apples.

MEAT INSPECTION

The Regional slaughterhouse at Cholsey was closed at the end of May 1950 for extensive alterations. The following figures relate to the period 1st January to 31st May, 1950.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	85	201	22	38	47
Number inspected	85	201	22	38	47
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcases condemned	1	3	5	3	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	26	72	—	3	9
% of those inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	32%	37%	23%	16%	19%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcases condemned	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	12	—	—	1
%age of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	15%	6%	—	—	2%

MILK

Milkshops on register	1
Number of inspections	12
Retail purveyors of milk in the district	
T.T. Pasteurised	2
T.T.	4
Raw Milk	3

SAMPLES TAKEN: Pasteurised milk 2. T.T. Pasteurised milk 2.

The above samples were taken to check phosphatase and Methylene Blue tests. All were satisfactory.

During the year the County Council have taken milk samples from each producer of raw milk for testing for T.B. All results were **negative.**

ICE CREAM

Number of producers	1
Number of retailers	24
Number of samples taken	15
Results. Grade 1	5
Grade 2	4
Grade 3	5
Grade 4	1

Warning letters were sent to three manufacturers drawing their attention to unsatisfactory samples. The Grade 4 sample was supplied by a London firm, and full particulars of the sample and the name and address of the firm were forwarded to the Public Health Department.

An insulated sampling-case was delivered towards the end of 1950, and is now in use.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
FACTORIES— including Factory Laundries	4	8	1	Nil
WORKSHOPS— including Workshop Laundries	37	74	11	Nil
WORKPLACES	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	41	82	12	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Number of prosecutions instituted
Want of cleanliness	1	1			
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	3	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	6	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	*6	—	—
TOTALS	10	10	*6	2	—

* Abstract of the Regulations not posted in the factory.

SUMMARY OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1950

Number of different premises visited	2,000
inspections made	4,000
complaints received	80
defects or nuisances discovered	20
informal notices served	100
statutory notices served	19
prosecutions	Nil

NUMBER OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED

As to privies, W.Cs., sink-wastes, etc.	22
drains or cesspools	6
pigs or other animals	1
cowsheds, dairies and slaughterhouses	1
deficient or impure water	30
unclean houses	3
overcrowded houses	6
polluted ditches or streams	Nil
insanitary accumulations or deposits	1
other defects or nuisances	69
Number of premises disinfected	30
water samples taken for analysis	68
wells closed	Nil
new wells sunk	1
houses connected to water main	78
water certificates granted	Nil
seizures or surrenders of uncanned or diseased food	69
conservancy closets replaced by W.Cs.	16
canal boats on register	Nil
common lodging houses on register	Nil
milkshops on register	1
inspections of	12
cowsheds and dairy farms on register	Nil
Slaughterhouses on register	1
inspections of	60
piggeries, number of inspections	24

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

Population. (Registrar-General's mid-year estimated "Home" population. See note on p. 8.) 5,194 (4,840).

Live Births. M. 98: F. 62: T. 160 (111).

Live Birth Rate Per Thousand of the Population. 30.8 (22.9).

Comparability Factor. (See p. 8.) 1.12.

Corrected Live Birth Rate. 34.5.

Live Birth Rate for England and Wales. 15.8 (16.7).

Still Births. M. 2: F. 4: T. 6 (1).

Still Birth Rate Per Thousand of the Population. 1.16.

Still Birth Rate for England and Wales. 0.37 (0.39).

Deaths. M. 29: F. 37: T. 66 (80).

Death Rate Per Thousand of the Population. 12.7 (16.5).

Comparability Factor. (See p. 9). 0.82.

Corrected Death Rate. 10.41.

Death Rate for England and Wales. 11.6 (11.7).

Deaths Under One Year. M. 3: F. 1: T. 4.

Infant Mortality Rate Per Thousand Live Births. 25.0 (9.0).

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales. 25.1 (29.8).

Maternal Deaths. Nil.

Puerperal Mortality Rate. Nil.

Total Maternal Mortality Rate. Nil.

CAUSES OF DEATH TABLE

Owing to changes in classification by the Registrar-General's Office, only certain of the 1949 percentages (shown in brackets) are available for the purpose of comparison.

CAUSES OF DEATH TABLE.

Causes of Death	Total Deaths	% of Total Deaths	1949	Male Deaths	% of Male Deaths	1949	Female Deaths	% of Female Deaths	1949
Heart Disease	17	25.76	(35.00)	9	31.03	(43.85)	8	21.62	(29.12)
comprising Coronary Disease and Angina Pectoris	2— 3.03%			2— 6.90%			—		
Arterio-sclerosis	1— 1.52%			1— 3.45%			—		
Other heart lesions	14—21.21%			6—20.69%			8—21.62%		
Cancer—All Sites	13	19.70	(16.25)	5	17.24	(9.39)	8	21.62	(20.80)
comprising : Stomach	1— 1.52%		(1.25)	—			1— 2.70%		(2.08)
Breast	1— 1.52%		(6.25)	—			1— 2.70%		(10.40)
Womb	—		(1.25)	—			—		(2.68)
Other Sites	11—16.67%		(7.50)	5—17.24%		(9.39)	6—16.21%		(6.24)
" Stroke "	13	19.70	(18.75)	3	10.34	(9.39)	10	27.03	(24.96)
Chest Disease—Excluding T.B.	8	12.12	(7.50)	5	17.24	(9.39)	3	8.11	(6.24)
comprising : Pneumonia	2— 3.03%			1— 3.45%			1— 2.70%		
Bronchitis	3— 4.55%			2— 6.90%			1— 2.70%		
Other Respiratory Disease	3— 4.55%			2— 6.90%			1— 2.70%		
Blood & Circulatory Diseases	3	4.55	(5.00)	1	3.45	(6.26)	2	5.41	(4.16)
Accidents, excluding road accidents	3	4.55	(5.00)	1	3.45	(3.13)	2	5.41	(6.24)
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	1	1.52	(2.50)	1	3.45	(3.13)	—		(2.08)
Non-Pulmonary	—			—			—		
Influenza	1	1.52	(—)	—		(—)	1	2.70	(—)
Nephritis	1	1.52	(—)	—		(—)	1	2.70	(—)
Other ill-defined causes	6	9.09	(1.25)	4	13.79	(—)	2	5.41	(2.08)
Totals	66	100.03%		29	99.99%		37	100.01%	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

N.B. It should be noted that although Mr. C. R. Driver was Sanitary Inspector and Borough Surveyor almost until the end of the year, Mr. L. Oliver, the present holder of both posts took up his duties in January, 1951. This report is therefore his work although the happenings refer to a period prior to his arrival in Wantage.

WATER

No new sources of supply were put into use during the year. With a view to augmenting the supply from the existing boreholes, it was decided to pipe a portion of the culvert supplying water from the now disused Edgehill Springs. Owing to unforeseen difficulties this scheme was dropped and further investigations are being made to make this supply safe by a process of heavy chlorination followed by dechlorination.

It is anticpated that the new 250,000 gallon service reservoir on Chainhill will be in operation at an early date.

For the purpose of improving the general supply to the area, 558 lineal yards of 3″ link-up mains have been laid. 393 lineal yards of 6″ main and 602 lineal yards of 3″ main have been laid to serve new housing estates.

SAMPLES

16 samples of water were taken, 12 of which were for bacteriological examination and 4 for chemical examination, made up as follows:-

	Bacteriological	Chemical
Gravitational supply	6	4
Borehole supply	3	
Main supply (after treatment)	1	
Private wells	2	

With the exception of the gravitational supply, all samples were found to be satisfactory.

CONNECTIONS TO MAINS

The number of houses connected to the Council's Mains during the year was 22.

SEWERAGE

The new Sewage Disposal Works at Grove is operating satisfactorily, but difficulties are being experienced in successfully drying out the sludge. Owing to the large amount of infiltration into old sewers, the works are having to deal with a much greater quantity of sewage than that for which they were designed.

Samples of sewage effluent from the new disposal works are taken regularly by representatives of the Thames Conservancy Board and no reports have been received that the effluent is unsatisfactory.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of house refuse is carried out by means of a modern Dennis refuse collection vehicle. Trade refuse from certain business premises is collected regularly.

All refuse is disposed of at the Council's refuse tip in Grove Street.

RODENT CONTROL

30 manholes on the sewage system throughout the town (approximately 10% of the total) were treated with poison bait twice during the year; very few complete takes were recorded.

20 premises were treated during the year, of which 19 proved rat-infested.

Altogether, 80 examinations of premises and sewer manholes were made.

HOUSING TABLE

Number of Permanent Houses Erected During the Year	**10**
By Local Authority	6
By private enterprise	4
Number of Permanent Houses Under Construction at the End of the Year	**35**
By Local Authority	30
By private enterprise	5
Number of Temporary Houses Erected During the year	**Nil**
Number of Nissen Huts Taken Over and Converted for Temporary Houses	**Nil**

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1.	(a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects	111
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	132
2.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
3.	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not in all respects fit for human habitation	74

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	69
Action taken under statutory powers	Nil

OVERCROWDING

(a) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Particulars of action taken for the eradication of bed-bugs.

(a) Number of Council Houses found to be infected	2
(b) Number of other Houses found to be infected	1
(c) Number of houses disinfested	3

Method of disinfestation: Removal of architraves, picture-rails, skirtings, and spraying walls, floors, ceilings and furniture with "Zaldecide," repeating the operations where necessary. Repeat visits are paid where disinfestation has been carried out and tenants are advised on methods to prevent re-infestation.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

There is one caravan on yearly licence in the district.

SELECTION OF TENANTS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

A points scheme is used in making the preliminary selection. The final selection is made from this list by the Housing Committee.

Total Number of Council Houses	**286**
Total Number of Houses	**1,404**

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are three catering establishments in the town. These premises are inspected regularly and have always been found to be satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES

Number in the District	4
Number of Inspections	6
Defects found	Nil

FOOD INSPECTION

The following items were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered.

Meat:

Description	Reason for condemnation	Weight
Beef: Buttock	Bone Taint	68lbs.
Hind Quarter		
(Topside only)	Bone Taint	108lbs.
Topside and H Bone	Bone Taint	41lbs.
Topside, Silverside, Rump	Bone Taint	110lbs.

OTHER FOOD CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR:
(Tinned and other)

Tins of Peas	8	Tomatoes	4
Pears	1	Pineapples	2
Milk (Evaporated)	3	Prunes	1
Milk (Skimmed)	1	Baked Beans	1
Damsons	2	Meat and Gravy	4
Syrup	2	Sardines	1
Greengages	1	Peanut Butter	1
Brawn	1	Luncheon Meat	54
Plums	19	Spaghetti and Meat	1
Beetroot	14		
Pounds of Cheese	11	Corned Beef	26¼
Prawns	8	Kippers	28
Brain	10	Brawn	11
Eggs	333		

BUTCHERS' SHOPS

Butchers' shops in the district have been regularly inspected and were all found to be satisfactory.

MILK

There are two retailers of Milk in the district, both of whom hold supplementary licences granted by the Council to sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin-Tested Milk. The position is eminently satisfactory, as everyone who buys milk in Wantage is assured of getting T.T. Pasteurised, T.T., or Pasteurised Milk.

RETAIL DAIRIES

There is one retail dairy in the Urban District which has been regularly inspected and always found satisfactory.

Milkshop on Register	1
Number of Inspections	4

ICE CREAM

Producer-Retailer. There is one producer-retailer in the town.

Retailers. There are two retailers of ice-cream in the town.

FACTORIES ACT (1937)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Defects found
1. FACTORIES— (including Factory Laundries)	18	21	Nil
2. WORKSHOPS— (including Workshop Laundries)	37	33	Nil
3. WORKPLACES	7	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	62	54	Nil

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

SUMMARY OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1950

Number of premises visited	161
inspections made	219
complaints received	68
defects or nuisances discovered	68
notices. Informal	57
Statutory	Nil

NUMBER OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED

As to Privies, W.Cs., Sink Wastes, etc.	19
Drains or Cesspools	34
Pigs and other animals	1
Deficient or impure water	Nil
Unclean houses	2
Overcrowded houses	2
Polluted ditches, streams, etc.	Nil
Insanitary accumulations or deposits	Nil
Other defects or nuisances	8
Number of Premises disinfected	4
Water samples taken for analysis	16
Wells closed	Nil
Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	Nil
New wells sunk	Nil
houses connected with the water mains	22
seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food	26
conservancy closets replaced by W.Cs.	Nil
Canal boats on register	Nil
Common Lodging Houses on register	Nil
Milkshops on register	1
number of inspections	4
Slaughterhouses on register	Nil
number of inspections	Nil
Piggeries inspected	5

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

Population. (Registrar-General's mid-year estimated "Home" population, see note on p. 8.) 14,776 (14,430).

Live Births. M. 147: F. 137: T. 284 (273).

Live Birth Rate Per Thousand of the Population. 19.2 (18.9).

Comparability Factor. (See p. 8). 1.05.

Corrected Live Birth Rate. 20.2.

Live Birth Rate, England and Wales. 15.8 (16.7).

Still Births. M. 4: F. 3: T. 7 (5).

Still Birth Rate Per 1,000 of Population. 0.47.

Still Birth Rate for England and Wales. 0.37 (0.39).

Deaths. M. 71: F. 72: T. 143 (136).

Death Rate Per 1,000 of Population. 9.7 (9.4).

Comparability Factor. (See p. 9). 0.97.

Corrected Death Rate. 9.41.

Death Rate for England and Wales. 11.6 (11.7).

Deaths Under One Year. M.5: F. 1: T.6.

Infant Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Live Births. 21.1 (7.6).

Infant Mortality Rate England and Wales. 25.1 (29.8).

Maternal Deaths. Nil.

Puerperal Mortality Rate. Nil.

Total Maternal Mortality Rate. Nil.

CAUSES OF DEATH TABLE

Owing to changes in classification by the Registrar-General's Office, only certain of the 1949 percentages (shown in brackets) are available for the purpose of comparison.

Cause of Death	Total Deaths	% of Total Deaths	1949	Male Deaths	% of Male Deaths	1949	Female Deaths	% of Female Deaths	1949
Heart Disease	49	34.30	(32.56)	21	29.59	(29.00)	28	38.89	(36.00)
comprising : Angina Pectoris	14—9.80%			7— 9.86%			7— 9.72%		
Arterio-sclerosis	3— 2.10%			1— 1.41%			2— 2.78%		
Other	32—22.40%			13—18.32%			19—26.39%		
" Stroke "	24	16.80	(10.36)	10	14.09	(7.25)	14	19.44	(13.50)
Cancer—All Sites	19	13.30	(16.28)	12	16.91	(10.15)	7	9.72	(22.50)
comprising : Stomach	2— 1.40%		(2.22)	2— 2.82%			—		
Lungs	2— 1.40%			2— 2.82%			—		
Breast	3— 2.10%			—			3— 4.17%		(4.50)
Womb	—			—			—		
Other Sites	12— 8.40		(11.10)	8—11.27%		(10.15)	4— 5.56%		(12 .00)
Chest—Excluding T.B.	17	11.90	(13.32)	13	18.32	(15.95)	4	5.56	((10.50)
comprising : Pneumonia	4— 2.80%			3— 4.23%			1— 1.39%		
Bronchitis	12— 8.40%			9—12.68%			3— 4.17%		
Other	1— 0.70%			1— 1.41%			—		
Blood and circulatory diseases	7	4.90	(2.22)	5	7.05	(—)	2	2.78	(4.50)
Tuberculosis—All Forms	3	2.10	(3.44)	1	1.41	(7.25)	2	2.78	(1.50)
comprising : Pulmonary	2— 1.40%	(3.70)	(3.70)	—			2— 2.78%		(1.50)
Other	1— 0.70%	(0.74)	(0.74)	1— 1.41%		(1.45)	—	(—)	
Influenza	2	1.40	(1.48)	—		(1.44)	2	2.78	(1.50)
Diabetes	2	1.40	(0.74)	—		(—)	2	2.78	(1.50)
Nephritis	2	1.40	(2.22)	—		(2.90)	2	2.78	(1.50)
Gastric and Duodenal Ulcers	1	0.70		1	1.41		—		
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	0.70		1	1.41		—		
Congenital Malformations	1	0.70		—			1	1.39	
Motor Accidents	1	0.70	(0.74)	1	1.41	(1.45)	—		
Other Accidents and Violence	1	0.70	(1.48)	1	1.41	(1.45)	—		
Other ill-defined causes	13	9.10	(9.62)	5	7.05	(17.40)	8	11.12	(1.50)
Totals	143	100.10%		71	100.06%		72	99.52%	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER

SUPPLIES

One new reservoir was constructed at Churn Hill, Blewbury, during the year. Capacity 500,000 gallons.

SAMPLES

105 samples were taken for analysis during the year (117). 59 of the above were taken from the Public Supplies and of these 56 were found to be satisfactory. In the remaining 3 contamination was slight and was remedied by increasing the degree of chlorination.

46 samples were taken from wells and small private supplies and, of these, 31 were found to be satisfactory. The remaining 15 were contaminated in varying degree and the appropriate measures taken to remedy this.

CONNECTIONS TO MAINS

Number of dwelling houses connected to mains, 1,861 (1,835). Population connected to water-mains (estimated) 8,955. Number of connections made to mains during the year 26 (23).

STAND-PIPES

Number of dwelling-houses supplied by standpipes, 76. Estimated population served by above, 230.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

No additions were made during the year to the sewerage system of the district.

CONNECTIONS TO SEWERAGE

23 (57) connections to the sewers were made during the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Fortnightly collection of refuse is in operation throughout the area with the exception of a Housing Estate in close proximity to the town of Wantage. Collection takes place on this estate once weekly to fall in with the arrangements already existing in the Urban District.

The service is controlled by the Public Health Department. One 10 cu. yd. refuse collection vehicle and 3 men are employed. 3 disposal tips are in use.

RODENT CONTROL

Until October 1950, the Rodent Control service was combined with the Faringdon R.D.C. and had a staff of two operatives working a joint service in both districts. In October, however, each authority formed their own service and the Wantage R.D.C. now has one operator working full time throughout the district under the supervision of the Public Health Department.

During the year all the Council's refuse tips, sewers and sewerage works were treated once monthly as a routine measure. Domestic buildings were also treated and in all 563 infestations were dealt with throughout the area.

HOUSING TABLE

Parish	Area in Acres	Population	Population per acre.	Total Houses	Persons per House	Council Houses	New Houses during 1950
Aldworth	1886	207	.109	63	3.3	6	Nil
Ardington	2693	443	.164	129	3.4	Nil	Nil
Beedon	2096	331	.157	102	3.2	4	Nil
Blewbury	4246	826	.194	239	3.4	32	4 P
Brightwalton	2054	274	.133	91	3.0	10	2 P
Catmore	710	60	.086	20	3.0	Nil	Nil
Chaddleworth	3400	451	.132	129	3.4	20	10 P
Challow, E.	1657	546	.329	169	3.2	30	15 T
Challow, W.	1070	177	.165	51	3.4	8	Nil
Childrey	2929	463	.158	138	3.3	32	Nil
Chilton	1448	637	.439	168	3.7	4	Nil
Compton	3803	764	.200	226	3.3	38	11 *
Denchworth	1041	174	.167	52	3.3	10	Nil
Farnborough	1886	111	.058	34	3.2	4	Nil
Fawley	2190	159	.072	50	3.1	8	Nil
Goosey	968	117	.121	35	4.3	8	Nil
Grove	2513	1539	.612	297	5.1	42	6 P
Hampstead Norris	4479	690	.151	213	3.2	20	6 T
Hanney, E.	2200	481	.218	134	3.6	20	Nil
Hanney, W.	1333	371	.278	106	3.5	20	Nil
Harwell	2503	1825	.729	415	4.3	44	6 P
Hendred, E.	3198	1095	.342	339	3.2	38	Nil
Hendred, W.	2002	297	.148	86	3.5	16	Nil
Hermitage	1482	544	.367	162	3.4	Nil	Nil
Ilsley, E.	3017	419	.138	120	3.4	26	4 P
Ilsley, W.	3037	263	.086	86	3.0	4	Nil
Letcombe Bassett	1631	147	.090	53	2.7	8	Nil
Letcombe Regis	2155	416	.193	132	3.1	30	Nil
Lockinge	3763	251	.066	81	3.0	Nil	Nil
Peasemore	2049	186	.090	59	3.1	Nil	Nil
Sparsholt	3329	263	.079	79	3.3	16	Nil
Upton	1413	249	.175	71	3.5	12	Nil
Totals and Averages	74181	14776	.195	4129	3.2	510	32 P 21 T 11 *

KEY TO THE HOUSING TABLE

P. indicates permanent Council Houses erected during the year.
T. Indicates Nissen huts taken over by the Wantage R.D.C. at East Challow and Hampstead Norris.
* indicates permanent houses built by the Agricultural Research Council at Compton, and are not shown in the **Selection of Tenants** table below.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Fourteen individual movable dwellings were licensed throughout the year. No camping sites were licensed and no licences were refused.

SELECTION OF TENANTS

The selection of tenants for the permanent and temporary accommodation provided in the area forms an important part of the work of the Public Health Department.

Owing to the housing shortage at the present time the provision of new houses is probably the most important duty of a Local Authority and the public is highly critical of the methods employed in selecting new tenants.

The claim of every applicant is therefore carefully scrutinised and every care is taken that all details are available when required by the Selection Committee.

During the year, new Council Houses and temporary hutments were let in the following parishes.

Parish	Council Houses	Temporary Dwellings
Blewbury	4	Nil
Brightwalton	2	Nil
Chaddleworth	10	Nil
Challow, East	Nil	15
Grove	6	Nil
Hampstead Norris	Nil	6
Harwell	6	Nil
Ilsley, East	4	Nil
TOTALS	32	21

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are 73 Catering Establishments, including Licensed Premises (Inns) in the area. No routine inspections were made, but 13 visits were undertaken upon request.

FOOD INSPECTIONS

Condemnation Certificates were issued in respect of the following foods surrendered by private traders.

95lbs. of Beef, 331lbs. of Frozen Mutton, 43lbs. of Bacon, 31lbs. of Minced Beef Loaf, 3½lbs. of Boiled Sweets, 1lb. of Tinned Peas, 15lbs. of Tinned Meat and Vegetables.

FOOD BYELAWS

46 shops in the area where foodstuffs are sold. There were no routine inspections made, but 23 visits were made upon request for condemnation certificates and advice on rodent and fly-control.

MILK

There are five retail dairies in the district and routine visits were made regularly throughout the year.

Retail Purveyors of Milk 7
Supplying Tuberculin-Tested and Pasteurised 7
Supplying Accredited in addition to Tuberculin-Tested and Pasteurised 2

Two of the above firms hold supplementary Licences to supply Tuberculin-Tested and Pasteurised Milk in the area.

ICE-CREAM

No. of dealers on Register 31
No. of dealers registered this year 7

All premises were visited upon receipt of application for registration. No routine visits were possible. No samples were taken during the year.

BAKEHOUSES

No. of bakehouses in the area 27
No. of inspections 15
No. of written notices Nil

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS

No slaughterhouses in the District were used as such during the year. No action was taken nor required at any butcher's shop under the Statutes. The general condition of shops and stores was satisfactory.

SHOPS ACT

There are 48 shops in the area. No routine work was carried out in this connection.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

35 visits in this connection were made at the request of the Medical Officer of Health.

8 premises were disinfected upon request following the removal of infectious patients.

FACTORY ACTS

Work in this connection was seriously curtailed owing to shortage of staff in the Department. Figures are as returned below.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	46	17	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	11	4	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	57	21	Nil	Nil

2. DEFECTS FOUND. Nil.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

SUMMARY OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1950

It should be noted that until Mr. Crowle took up his duties as Additional Sanitary Inspector in October, 1950, Mr. Rosser was single-handed and it was not possible, therefore, to carry out all the statutory duties.

Number of different premises visited	683
inspections made	888
complaints received	119
defects or nuisances discovered	100
notices served. Informal	50
Statutory	4
prosecutions	Nil
Number of defects or nuisances abated.	
as to privies, W.Cs., Sink-wastes, etc.	27
as to drains and cesspools	6
as to pigs and other animals	3
as to deficient or impure water	16
as to unclean houses	3
as to overcrowded houses	6
as to polluted ditches and streams	2
as to insanitary accumulations and deposits	2
as to other defects or nuisances	2
Number of premises disinfected	8
water samples for analysis	105
wells closed	Nil
wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	Nil
new wells sunk	Nil
new houses connected to the water main	26
water certificates granted (Rural District only)	Nil
of seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food	12
of conservancy closets to be replaced by W.Cs.	8
Canal Boats on register	Nil
Common Lodging Houses on register	Nil
Slaughterhouses on Register	8
Slaughterhouse inspections	7
Piggeries inspections	5
Retail dairies in District	5
Retail dairies inspections	61

F. H. Castle & Co., Ltd., Thame, Oxon